



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 September 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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Daily Highlights

- CNN reports officials at the South Texas Project nuclear power plant in Bay City, in the path of Hurricane Rita, are doing a complete shutdown of the plant. (See item [3](#))
- The Los Angeles Times reports that a JetBlue flight with 145 passengers and crew made an emergency landing at LAX Wednesday after a broken front landing gear forced the pilot to abort a transcontinental flight. (See item [14](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security reports the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in conjunction with other federal agencies, continues to prepare for Hurricane Rita throughout the Gulf Coast region. (See item [26](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 21, Reuters* — **Oil firms batten down Gulf operations.** Oil companies on Wednesday, September 21, began shutting refineries and finishing the evacuation of workers from oil and gas production platforms in the Gulf of Mexico as powerful Hurricane Rita approached. After waiting until Rita's likely path became clearer, refiners began to close plants in Texas. Valero Corp., the nation's largest refiner, said it reduced rates at its 243,000 barrel per

day Houston refinery and its 85,000 bpd Texas City refinery but did not specify by how much. Bill Greehey, Valero's chairman, characterized Rita as a "national disaster" that could send gasoline prices much higher. Evacuations of workers on oil and gas production platforms in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico intensified on Wednesday. Chevron said as of Wednesday morning it had evacuated 2,200 workers from all of its Gulf of Mexico operations. Marathon Oil said it had evacuated about 50 workers from its Ewing Bank platform in the Gulf, shutting in about 17,000 bpd of oil and 7.5 million cubic feet of natural gas production. The company also evacuated workers working on the three platforms in the South Pass block which were damaged by Hurricane Katrina and have not operated since, according to Paul Weeditz, a company spokesperson.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/21/AR2005092101146.html>

2. *September 21, Nuclear Regulatory Commission* — **Nuclear Regulatory Commission raises security design expectations for new reactor licensing activities.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is modifying its approach to regulating advanced nuclear power plants to explicitly encourage consideration of security earlier in reactor designs and license applications. The NRC is developing proposed revisions to its policy statement on advanced reactors, as well as revisions to security-related aspects of the agency's regulations for licensing new reactors. The aim of the process is to have applicants submit security assessments early, so that plant designers establish security features well before construction is planned. "We're looking to take advantage of the opportunities for early consideration of security, as well as safety, to be incorporated into reactor designs," said David Matthews, Director of the Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs in the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. "Accordingly, security design expectations should be considered as early as possible in the design and licensing of new reactors," said Matthews. The NRC staff will also work on setting standards for future reactor designs so that security is integral to the design process.

Source: http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2005/05-1_31.html

3. *September 21, CNN* — **Nuclear plant to shut down for Rita.** Officials at a Texas nuclear power plant in the path of Hurricane Rita prepared Wednesday, September 21, to shut down two reactors. The South Texas Project plant serving one million customers is built on elevated ground in Bay City, 12 miles inland from the Texas coast. It is designed to withstand storm surges from Category 5 hurricanes. "We have a specific plan in place on what to do with a hurricane approaching," spokesperson Alan Mikus said. "Our plan calls for the complete shutdown of the plant in advance of the storm's arrival," said Mikus. He added that the plant shutdown would likely occur about seven hours before landfall. If Rita maintains the forecast track, the hurricane would come ashore early Saturday somewhere between Corpus Christi and Galveston. Customers will not lose power during the shutdown because other power companies will pick up the load, Mikus said. The nuclear plant itself will operate off power from other companies for cooling the fuel supply and spent fuel storage, he added. If the power grid fails, Mikus said, on-site diesel generators will provide back-up power to maintain the proper cooling.

Source: http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/09/21/rita.nuclear/index.html?section=cnn_latest

4. *September 21, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-05-1047T: Energy Markets: Gasoline Price Trends (Testimony).** Soaring retail gasoline prices have garnered extensive

media attention and generated considerable public anxiety in recent months, particularly in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Prices in many areas hit by the hurricane saw retail gasoline prices increase to over \$3.00 per gallon, and in one reported case to almost \$6.00 per gallon, with some gasoline stations running out of gasoline entirely. The availability of relatively inexpensive gasoline over past decades has helped foster economic growth and prosperity in the United States, so large price increases, especially if sustained over a long period, pose long-term challenges to the economy and consumers. This testimony, as requested, addresses factors that help explain how gasoline prices are determined and what key factors will likely influence trends in future gasoline prices.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d051047thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d051047t.pdf>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *September 21, Vnunet.com* — **Financial providers must improve security or risk losing customers.** A new survey by computer services company EDS has shown that more than half of U.S. banking customers would stop using their bank if it suffered a successful hacking attack. Of the 1,424 people questioned in the Financial Services Privacy and Customer Relationship Management Survey, 30 percent would close all their accounts and take their business elsewhere if personal data were compromised. Another 10 percent would move some of their accounts, and 55 percent would stop banking until they believed that the problem had been solved. "The results of this survey accurately reflect a common theme we are seeing in the industry," said Jean-Louis Bravard, global leader at EDS Financial Services. "The act of protecting consumers' personal information is not only imperative to meet compliance standards, but essential in a financial institution's ability to attract and retain a solid customer base. "Financial providers must rise to the security challenges or risk losing their customers," said Bravard.

Survey details: http://www.eds.com/news/news.aspx?news_id=2596

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2142582/banks-face-consumer-exodus>

6. *September 20, The Business Review (NY)* — **New law requires notification after identity theft incidents.** New York Governor George Pataki has signed a bill into law requiring companies, governments and private organizations to notify customers in cases where confidential information has been exposed to possible identity thieves. The new law should

prevent some identity theft or at least minimize the disruption to the lives of people whose identities could be used by criminals, Pataki said. The new law, which takes effect in December, will make notification mandatory if databases involving identifying information such as Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers or bank and financial account numbers may have been hacked into by possible thieves. The law requires customers to be notified "without unreasonable delay." The state attorney general's office, the Consumer Protection Board and other agencies must be notified if 5,000 or more people may have been exposed to identity thieves, the new law says. Notification would be handled by mail, electronic mail, public notices on Websites or through the media.

Source: http://albany.bizjournals.com/albany/stories/2005/09/19/daily12.html?jst=b_ln_hl

7. *September 20, Associated Press* — **Officials report spike in counterfeit currency in western Pennsylvania.** Despite a host of security measures built into new U.S. currency, discoveries of counterfeiting have increased 10-fold in western Pennsylvania. Jeff Eisenbeiser, head of the Secret Service's Pittsburgh office, warned business owners and residents to be wary of the larger bills they receive. The Secret Service has arrested 16 small-time counterfeiters in western Pennsylvania in the last year, but Eisenbeiser said it made no impact on the dramatic rise in weekly fake cash flooding the market. Over the last six months, the average amount of counterfeit bills his office has collected has jumped from about \$500 to \$5,000 per week, he said. The money has come mainly from small business owners like service stations and convenience stores in the Pittsburgh area, but there has been a similar increase throughout western Pennsylvania, he said. Regional spikes like the one hitting western Pennsylvania happen occasionally, said Eric Zahren, spokesperson for the Secret Service's headquarters in Washington, DC. Western Pennsylvania's increase "doesn't coincide with any national trends," he said. "It seems to be a regional phenomenon we're keeping track of," said Zahren.

Source: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/103-09202005-544120.html>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

8. *September 21, Associated Press* — **Gulfport-Biloxi airport back in business.** Four airlines at Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport in Mississippi have resumed operations. The first airline to resume commercial flights, Northwest, started September 8, and the fourth, Continental, started flying again Monday, September 19. The volume of flights is at least half of what it was before Hurricane Katrina hit, said Bruce Fallic, the airport's executive director. Fallic said the airport did suffer some damage. Gates 5 and 6 are still closed and may not be opened for a while. The damage to the gates and the difficulty in making sure security and other terminal operations were working are the reasons service is down to 10 flights a day coming and going. There were 21 flights a day before the storm, Fallic said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-21-katrina-airport_x.htm

9. *September 21, Associated Press* — **Australia to spend \$154 million to increase airport security.** The Australian government plans to spend US\$154 million increasing security at the nation's airports, Prime Minister John Howard said Wednesday, September 21. Under the plan, Canberra would introduce new machines capable of detecting explosives in cargo and upgrade closed circuit television systems as well as increasing patrols of so-called air-side areas at

airports — such as bays where airplanes are parked, unloaded and refueled. Police commanders responsible for security would be stationed permanently at the country's 11 largest airports, Howard said in a statement. The announcement came after the government ordered an independent report by British expert Sir John Wheeler following a string of embarrassing lapses in airport security — including a baggage handler in Sydney being caught wearing a camel costume taken from a passenger's baggage and allegations that airport staff were involved in drug smuggling. Although there has never been a major terror attack on Australian soil, many analysts believe Howard's vocal support for the U.S.-led war in Iraq make this country a target. Howard indicated that airlines would have to help fund some of the package and that it was possible they might require travelers to pay extra charges.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-21-aussie-security_x.htm

10. *September 21, Associated Press* — **Federal Aviation Administration to propose cameras, wireless devices in planes.** The latest post-September 11 security change for commercial planes may be cameras in the cabin and wireless devices for flight attendants to alert the cockpit crew to an emergency. The Federal Aviation Administration plans to propose those ideas Wednesday and then take public comment before deciding whether to mandate the changes, The Associated Press has learned. The plan is to give pilots a better idea of what's happening in the cabin. The September 11 hijackers gained access to the flight deck after attacking flight attendants in the cabin. The Allied Pilots Association, which represents American Airlines pilots, supports the idea of using cameras to monitor passengers. David Stempler, president of the Air Travelers Association, said cameras add another layer of security. Asked whether some might oppose cameras on privacy grounds, he said, "Any concerns about privacy are groundless because the cabin crew can see passengers all the time already."

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-20-plane-cameras_x.htm

11. *September 21, Associated Press* — **Logan airport considers traffic lights to boost runway safety.** Officials at Boston's Logan International Airport are exploring plans to install traffic signals on the airfield in an effort to increase runway safety after a series of near collisions. The signals would be posted at intersections of taxiways and runways and would work much like street traffic lights. The signal would flash red when a runway is active and green when it is clear for an airplane to cross. In the past year, Logan has had 14 unauthorized airfield movements, or incursions, that put planes in danger of colliding — more than double the amount reported in the previous 36 months combined, the Boston Herald reported on Sunday. Flavio Leo, manager of aviation planning for the Massachusetts Port Authority, said the technology is promising and would provide pilots with direct visual cues of when it's safe to go. They currently rely on radar and verbal communications, he said. "Technology is ultimately going to play a major role in (runway safety)," said Logan Aviation Director Tom Kinton at a Massport board meeting last week. A traffic-light system tested at Logan in the 1990s got poor reviews, but Massport officials said the technology has improved since then.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-21-logan-lights_x.htm

12. *September 21, Knight Ridder* — **Minutemen planning national action at U.S. borders.** In October, thousands of Minutemen will form a vigil stretching across much of the northern and southern borders. Some Minuteman Civil Defense Corps volunteers are arriving early along the Texas-Mexico border in response to the Department of Homeland Security's decision to

temporarily shift some Border Patrol agents to the Gulf Coast to help in Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. The expanding watchdog force — denounced as vigilantes by critics and hailed as public-spirited citizens by admirers — is just one manifestation of growing fears about the government's failure to adequately control U.S. borders. Those concerns are expressed not just by the Minutemen, but also by the chiefs of the FBI and CIA, who have testified before Congress about the possibility that terrorists are crossing the border as easily as undocumented workers. Minuteman leaders say they are playing a much-needed role, serving as eyes and ears for the overworked border patrol. Members must pass a background check conducted with a \$50 application fee and are under strict orders not to touch an illegal immigrant or make an arrest. Minuteman officials say volunteers can carry weapons for self-defense in states where the practice is permitted by law, such as Texas.

Source: <http://www.macon.com/mld/macon/news/nation/12702323.htm>

13. *September 21, Department of Transportation* — **U.S., Mexico agree on expanded aviation services.** The United States and Mexico on Wednesday, September 21, agreed to allow expanded aviation services between their two countries, paving the way for more flights and lower fares on many routes in the third-largest U.S. international air market. This action updates the U.S.–Mexico agreement for the first time since 1999. Under the new agreement, three airlines from each country may fly between any U.S. city and any of 14 Mexican cities, including all the major resort destinations in Mexico: Acapulco, Cancun, Cozumel, Guadalajara, Huatulco, Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo, Loreto, Manzanillo, Mazatlan, Merida, Monterrey, Oaxaca, Puerto Vallarta, and San Jose del Cabo. Previously, only two airlines from each country could operate on each U.S.–Mexico city-pair market. Any number of scheduled all-cargo carriers may fly between the countries under the new agreement, and three all-cargo carriers may fly in each U.S.–Mexico city-pair market. The previous agreement allowed only five scheduled all-cargo carriers from each country, and only one from each country could operate between any U.S.–Mexico city pair except in a very limited number of markets. The agreement adds a new provision for U.S. and Mexican carriers to enter into code-sharing arrangements with carriers from third countries for their U.S.–Mexico services

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot13305.htm>

14. *September 21, Los Angeles Times* — **Crippled JetBlue airliner makes emergency landing at LAX.** A JetBlue flight with 145 passengers and crew made an emergency landing at LAX Wednesday, September 21, after a broken front landing gear forced the pilot to abort a transcontinental flight. After flying out over the ocean to burn off fuel, the plane seemed to float through the air as it made its final approach. The pilot balanced the craft on its rear landing wheels, keeping the damaged front gear away from the ground for as long as possible. The front gear was the last part of the plane to touch down. Then, the tires shredded and the twisted wheels gave off sparks from the friction. But the plane held true and moments later the Airbus 320 stopped on the runway. Within minutes, passengers left, walking down a mobile ramp to the tarmac. Passengers were tense during the flight as they watched the crisis on televisions. Passenger Mike Miceli, a vice president at NBC–Universal, said the flight attendants told the passengers to think of the ordeal as "an adventure." In the final minutes of the descent, rush hour traffic slowed to less than a crawl on Interstate 405 as drivers on cell phones craned their necks and peered into their rear view mirrors.

Additional reporting on the event:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-passenger22sep22.0.1>

[782210.story?coll=la-home-headlines](http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-092105plane_lat.0.3067510.story?coll=la-home-headlines)

Source: http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-092105plane_lat.0.3067510.story?coll=la-home-headlines

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

15. *September 21, Pioneer Press (MN)* — **Cattle tuberculosis found in two more Minnesota herds.** A cattle disease called bovine tuberculosis (TB) has been found in two more Minnesota beef herds, state officials said Tuesday, September 20, raising new concern about a disease that until recently hadn't appeared in Minnesota since 1971. The two herds from Roseau County have been quarantined and will be destroyed, and all neighboring cattle are being tested, officials said. For now, the state retains its formal designation as TB-free, but further spread could prove costly for the state's livestock industry. Minnesota dairy and beef herds produced \$2.3 billion of sales last year. Bovine TB resurfaced in a Roseau County herd in July, triggering an investigation of where the disease had come from and whether it had spread. State veterinarian Bill Hartmann said investigators still don't know the source, but added that both newly infected herds shared fences with the initial infected herd. With 2.2 million head of cattle in Minnesota, officials aren't taking chances. Even a possibility that deer could spread the disease has prompted the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to put together a TB field-testing program in northwest Minnesota that will launch when deer-hunting season opens in November. Bovine TB is a respiratory disease that passes from animal to animal.

Source: <http://www.twincities.com/mld/pioneerpress/12697971.htm>

16. *September 20, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **U.S. Department of Agriculture releases estimates of farm production losses.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Tuesday, September 20, released a preliminary assessment of U.S. agricultural production losses due to hurricane Katrina and drought. The report estimates hurricane-related losses to be nearly \$900 million. Substantial portions of rice, soybeans, and corn production in hurricane-affected states were harvested prior to landfall of Hurricane Katrina. Much of the crop losses are attributable to lost horticultural production in Florida and along the Gulf Coast. USDA's September crop production survey indicated cotton production losses in the range of four percent for Alabama and Mississippi. Louisiana is estimated to have lost nine percent of the state's sugarcane production. Short-term livestock production losses due to the hurricane are estimated in the range of \$30 million. Millions of chickens were killed. Producers also lost eggs, poult, and chicken grow-out facilities. Dairy producers discarded an estimated three million dollars worth of milk, and might face a period of reduced cow productivity. An estimated 10,000 cattle were lost. This preliminary assessment provides estimates of production losses not infrastructure or long-term losses. The USDA assessment also reviews production losses due to the drought in the eastern Corn Belt, estimating \$1.3 billion in corn and soybeans losses in Arkansas, Illinois,

Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Source: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentonly=true&contentid=2005/09/0385.xml

17. *September 20, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **Action taken to ease grain transportation.** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Mike Johanns Tuesday, September 20, said USDA is taking additional steps to further reduce stress on the grain transportation system caused by Hurricane Katrina. USDA is providing a temporary incentive to assist immediate movement of some 140 barges of damaged corn (over seven million bushels) out of New Orleans to up-river locations. Once unloaded, the empty barges will continue up the river to load and begin moving new-crop commodities. In addition, to help producers deliver and sell crops in the absence of barge transportation caused by the hurricane, USDA also will pay incentives for alternative storage of up to 50 million bushels of grain. These actions will further ease pressure on producers to market commodities under adverse conditions. To reduce stress on the Central Gulf transportation and handling system, USDA will provide a transportation differential to cover the costs of moving grain to other river transportation modes and handling and locations. To further alleviate grain movement into the Mississippi River, USDA will allow producers forfeiting commodities to USDA the opportunity to buy back the grain when their farm-stored loan matures at the end of September and October.
- Source: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentonly=true&contentid=2005/09/0389.xml

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Food Sector

18. *September 20, Food Safety and Inspection Service* — **Chicken frankfurters recalled.** PRG Packing Corp., a Bronx, NY, firm, is voluntarily recalling approximately 23,040 pounds of chicken frankfurters that may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Tuesday, September 20. The frankfurters were distributed to wholesale establishments in New Jersey and New York. The problem was discovered through microbiological sampling done by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of the product. Consumption of food contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially fatal disease.
- Source: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_039_2005_relea se/index.asp
19. *September 20, U.S. Department of Agriculture* — **Food safety grants awarded.** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Mike Johanns said Tuesday, September 20, that USDA has awarded more than \$12 million in grants to universities nationwide. The grants will focus on addressing priority food safety issues by integrating applied research, classroom education, and outreach to consumers and industry through the National Integrated Food Safety Initiative (NIFSI). "The research projects will address food safety issues ranging from on-farm production, post-harvest processing and distribution, to food selection, preparation and consumption," Johanns said. The NIFSI grant program, administered through USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), is an annual grant program open to faculty from all four-year colleges and universities. Researchers and educators

may apply for up to \$600,000 per grant. This year, an average of \$500,000 was awarded to support integrated food safety projects at 16 U.S. colleges and universities. In addition to standard grants, special emphasis grants were made available to Colorado State University, the University of Minnesota, and Rutgers University in the amount of two million dollars. These grants are given to researchers studying high priority areas such as food defense and food biosecurity.

Source: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentonly=true&contentid=2005/09/0388.xml

20. *September 20, Journal of Infectious Diseases* — **New tools used to control foodborne hepatitis A outbreaks related to green onions.** Novel use of genetic testing methods helped public health officials control and limit the further spread of four outbreaks of foodborne hepatitis A virus in 2003. The authors of the study, colleagues at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, explained that these molecular epidemiologic methods had not previously been used. In September 2003, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia reported 422 cases of foodborne hepatitis A virus infection. Investigators identified green onions as the likely culprit. The researchers also compared viral RNA sequences from case patients and individuals concurrently ill with hepatitis A virus infection in non-outbreak settings in the U.S. and Mexico. Viral RNA sequences from patients in the three states, plus patients involved in a subsequent outbreak in Pennsylvania in October 2003, were slightly different from each other. The viral sequence from each outbreak, however, was identical to one or more sequences isolated from northern Mexican residents infected with hepatitis A virus. The researchers concluded that the sources of the green onions served in restaurants in Tennessee and Georgia were three farms in northern Mexico. The researchers credited the viral sequencing techniques with helping them to identify the relationships between the outbreaks in four separate locations, and to define the scope of the outbreaks quickly.

Source: http://www.idsociety.org/Template.cfm?Section=News_from_the_Journals&CONTENTID=13984&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

21. *September 21, Agence France-Presse* — **Asian nations approve strategy to fight bird flu.** A group of 37 Asian nations has approved a strategy to counter emerging diseases such as bird flu at a regional meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO), which has warned of a possible pandemic. But Shigeru Omi, WHO's regional director for the Western Pacific, warned at the meeting in Noumea, capital of New Caledonia, that the plans could not be carried out without the help of wealthier nations. The latest outbreak of bird flu was detected in South Korea in December 2003. The WHO fears a possible pandemic if the virus mutates and becomes more easily communicable to humans. But officials were upbeat after the

Asian–Pacific countries gathering in Noumea endorsed the WHO's "Asia–Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases" which outlined five key objectives to be monitored annually. WHO's objectives are: to reduce the risk of emerging diseases; to strengthen the early detection of outbreaks; to strengthen the early response to emerging diseases; to strengthen the preparedness for emerging diseases; and to begin a sustainable technical collaboration within the Asia–Pacific region. The WHO has said that it will need about 160 million dollars to implement its Asian–Pacific Avian Influenza Action Plan.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050921/hl_afp/healthfluwhoasia_050921121353

22. *September 21, Washington Post* — **Indonesia warns of possible bird flu epidemic.** Indonesia could be on the brink of a bird flu epidemic if the virus continues to accelerate, the country's health minister warned Wednesday, September 21. Siti Fadillah Supari's remarks came as a pair of young girls with bird flu symptoms died in Jakarta hospitals and two days after the government declared it was taking "extraordinary" measures to stem the spread of the virus, – including the mandatory hospitalization of anyone with suspicious symptoms. The health ministry has already confirmed four previous deaths from avian influenza, most recently a 37–year–old Jakarta woman who died two weeks ago. Since then, at least 10 other people have been admitted to hospitals with high fevers and breathing difficulties symptomatic of bird flu. Though bird flu was first detected in Indonesian poultry more than two years ago and then spread across the majority of the country's provinces, health ministry officials had minimized the threat, saying the virus was not infecting humans as it had elsewhere in Southeast Asia. But after a 38–year–old man and two of his daughters died from the disease in a Jakarta suburb two months ago, the health ministry and officials from the World Health Organization stepped up efforts to control its spread.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/21/AR2005092100638.html>

23. *September 20, Associated Press* — **Lab accidents may lead to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreaks.** Laboratory accidents are the most likely source of future outbreaks of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), a leading expert with the World Health Organization (WHO) said Tuesday, September 20. Hitoshi Oshitani, WHO's Asia Pacific adviser for communicable diseases, said SARS had been contained but could make a resurgence. "We are pretty sure that there is no chain of human to human transmission (in SARS) right now," he told The Associated Press during a break in a WHO conference in New Caledonia. "It's gone, but it may come back." He said it was likely the virus had existed in the animal population for "hundreds of years" before being transmitted to humans by some genetic variation that scientists had yet to identify. Laboratories holding stocks of the human form of SARS were a more likely source of a resurgence in the disease than animal carriers, he said. "There have been already three incidents of laboratory accidents that resulted in a human infection, in Taiwan, Singapore, and Beijing," he said.

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/news/2005/09/20/D8CO0SO8A.html>

24. *September 20, Agence France–Presse* — **U.S. considers bio–terror antidote kits in homes.** U.S. health officials are considering a plan to stock homes with antidote kits in the event of a bioterror attack, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed. The feasibility of home antidote kits could be tested in Seattle, WA, Von Roebuck of the CDC told Agence France Presse. "There are a lot of avenues being looked at as to how we can get

vaccines and antidotes to the general public in an emergency situation," Roebuck said, stressing the options remained in the drawing-board stage. Ideas include having U.S. Postal Service carriers deliver emergency medicines, keeping batches of drugs at hospitals or clinics, and "seeing what can be done in folks' homes," Roebuck said. "The idea of giving people kits would be in the mix of some of the things," Roebuck said. The CDC would coordinate distribution of bio-terrorism kits as part of its management of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) of medical supplies. The stated intent of the stockpile is "to protect the American public if there is a public health emergency severe enough to cause local supplies to run out."

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050920/hl_afp/usattacksbioterrorkit_050920235251;_ylt=AnOypjEbfrVI9TI8OI7ER_WJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU

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Government Sector

25. *September 21, Department of Homeland Security* — **United States Government response to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.** Federal support to state and local officials, volunteer organizations, victims and their families who have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina continues around the clock in an effort to provide recovery support to those affected by this unprecedented natural disaster. Federal assistance to households will help them get on the road to recovery. The Department of Homeland Security Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties is working with federal partners and other organizations to provide health, medical and other assistance for evacuees with disabilities. The group has coordinated the provision of over 100 wheelchairs to evacuees in the Houston area; helped the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Systems issue guidance to pharmacies about dispensing prescriptions to out-of-state requestors; and arranged for truckloads of durable medical equipment to be delivered to the region.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4834>

26. *September 20, Department of Homeland Security* — **U.S. Government readies for Hurricane Rita.** The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with other federal agencies, continues to prepare for Hurricane Rita. FEMA is preparing for Hurricane Rita as follows: a) 50 truckloads of water and ice and 20 truckloads of Meals-Ready-to-Eat (MREs) are at federal facilities in Florida; b) Two Disaster Medical Assistance Teams, consisting of approximately 70 people, are in Florida; c) Two Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces, consisting of approximately 68 people are in Florida; d) 45 truckloads of water, 45 truckloads of ice, and eight truckloads of MREs are being staged in Texas; e) Nine Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces, consisting of approximately 130 people, are pre-staging in Texas; f) Nine Disaster Medical Assistance Teams, consisting of approximately 385 people, are pre-staging in Texas. In addition to FEMA efforts, the Coast Guard has the following three units on immediate stand-by in Miami: a) Damage Assessment Teams, b) Emergency Response and Reconstruction Teams, and c) Personnel at Station Fort Pierce.

For more information on emergency preparedness: <http://www.ready.gov/>

U.S. Coast Guard Hurricane Rita Incident Management Site:

<https://www.piersystem.com/external/index.cfm?cid=1022>

National Hurricane Center Update:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/refresh/MIATCUAT3+shtml/211807.shtml?>

National Hurricane Center Public Advisory:

[http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/refresh/MIATCPAT3+shtml/210248.shtml](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/refresh/MIATCPAT3+shtml/210248.shtml?)

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4833>

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Emergency Services Sector

27. *September 21, Citizens' Voice (PA)* — Pennsylvania emergency responders will put skills to the test at two disaster drills. A drill Saturday, September 24, at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport in Luzerne County, PA, will simulate a plane crash with injuries and fatalities. Emergency personnel will be asked to work with airport personnel to account for every passenger on the plane, said George Bieber, the airport's public safety director. In a second drill held Saturday, November 12, at the Luzerne County Community College's (LCCC) Educational Conference Center, first responders' ability to react to a chemical explosion will be gauged. At the November drill, first responders will be asked to locate and rescue victims, identify the chemical agent, and clear the scene, said Al Bardar, director of Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency. Both drills will have volunteers posing as "victims" who will be first treated on scene and then taken to area hospitals to test the medical facilities' procedures. Wyoming Valley Health Care System's Wilkes-Barre General Hospital will be taking part in the drills to better prepare personnel for a large-scale trauma event, said spokesperson Kevin McDonald. Other area hospitals participating are Community Medical Center, Mercy Hospital and Moses Taylor in Scranton and Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Plains Township.

Source: http://www.citizensvoice.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15247122&B RD=2259&PAG=461&dept_id=455154&rfti=6

28. *September 21, Sun Herald (FL)* — Florida emergency response teams conduct terrorist drill. Charlotte County, FL, emergency response teams participated in a training exercise Tuesday, September 20, to prepare for a potential terrorist incident at the Charlotte Sports Park baseball stadium. The scenario involved a terrorist riding into one of the stadium's tunnels in a golf cart and detonating a bomb. County emergency organizations that participated include emergency management, the health department, fire department, emergency medical services, the Sheriff's Office, 911 dispatch, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, the school district, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the area's four hospitals. The exercise was sponsored by a Department of Justice Office of Domestic Preparedness grant and co-sponsored by the Florida Department of Community Affairs and the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

Source: <http://www.sun-herald.com/NewsArchive2/092105/ew2.htm?date=092105&story=ew2.htm>

29. *September 20, Kansas City Star (MO)* — Kansas university sponsors terrorism training for first responders. More than 400 Kansas medical and public safety personnel will train this week on how to respond to a terrorist attack. The program, by the University of Kansas (KU) School of Medicine, commenced Tuesday, September 20, with training for doctors, nurses,

police, firefighters, rescue workers, dispatchers and government officials. It ends Friday, September 23, with a simulated attack on a vacant school in Richmond, KS. Firefighters and emergency medical personnel will respond to the school. SWAT teams and bomb squads will conduct exercises at an undisclosed location. About 200 “patients,” most of them KU medical students, will be sent to 15 area hospitals to test emergency-preparedness plans.

Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/local/12690474.htm>

30. *September 19, Stevens Point Journal (WI)* — **Participants learned from simulated tanker explosion in Wisconsin.** Emergency workers are better prepared to handle a massive emergency following Portage County, WI's, first mass casualty incident training session Saturday, September 17. During the four-hour mock emergency drill, six people died and 19 were injured after a tanker truck exploded causing a 14-vehicle pileup on Interstate 39. Local fire and police departments, first responders, municipal leaders, emergency medical technicians, Red Cross and other emergency entities staged the pileup to practice how it would be handled if such an incident ever were to occur. "Out of the shoot, we did have some communication issues," said Stevens Point, WI, Deputy Chief Jay Gordon. Radios crackled to life for several moments, then went silent. The glitch was later identified by more than one group. The communication system, including specific frequencies, is one of the items that will be tweaked in the county's response guides, officials said. When radio communication failed in the drill, face-to-face communication took its place. The biggest problem was making sure everyone assigned to specific jobs focused on that job rather than helping the first victim they came across.

Source: <http://www.wisinfo.com/journal/spjlocal/296964716390738.shtm>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

31. *September 20, FrSiRT* — **HP Tru64 Unix FTP daemon remote denial of service vulnerability** . A vulnerability was identified in HP Tru64 UNIX 5.1B-3, HP Tru64 UNIX 5.1B-2/PK4, HP Tru64 UNIX 5.1 A PK, HP Tru64 UNIX 4.0G PK4 and HP Tru64 UNIX 4.0F PK8. They could be exploited by remote attackers to cause a denial of service. According to FrSiRT, this flaw is due to an unspecified error in the ftp daemon.

Source: <http://www.frsirt.com/english/advisories/2005/1801>

32. *September 20, SecurityFocus* — **IBM Rational ClearQuest unspecified multiple cross-site scripting vulnerabilities** . It has been found that IBM Rational ClearQuest is prone to multiple unspecified cross-site scripting vulnerabilities. This vulnerability is caused by a lack of sanitization of user-supplied input. The outcome of this vulnerability may lead to an attacker leveraging these issues to have arbitrary script code executed in the browser of an unsuspecting user in the context of the affected site.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14885/references>

33. *September 19, PC World* — **Colleges, government team on cybersecurity.** Iowa State University and the U.S. National Science Foundation will join with private businesses to attack cybersecurity problems. The new Center for Information Protection will focus on short-term

cybersecurity issues identified by member companies. It also has a to develop new technologies that participants can use to fight common cybersecurity problems.

Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/news/article/0,aid,122596,00.asp>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT has received reports of multiple phishing sites that attempt to trick users into donating funds to fraudulent foundations in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. US-CERT warns users to expect an increase in targeted phishing emails due to recent events in the Gulf Coast Region.

Phishing emails may appear as requests from a charitable organization asking the users to click on a link that will then take them to a fraudulent site that appears to be a legitimate charity. The users are then asked to provide personal information that can further expose them to future compromises.

Users are encouraged to take the following measures to protect themselves from this type of phishing attack:

1. Do not follow unsolicited web links received in email messages
2. Contact your financial institution immediately if you believe your account/and or financial information has been compromised

US-CERT strongly recommends that all users reference the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) web site for a list of legitimate charities to donate to their charity of choice.

For more information and current disaster updates please see URL:

<http://www.fema.gov/>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 26777 (---), 6881 (bittorrent), 445 (microsoft-ds), 40000 (---), 135 (epmap), 139 (netbios-ssn), 21225 (---), 2234 (directplay)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

34. *September 22, The Associated Press* — **Hurricane Rita gains strength.** Hurricane Rita swirled toward the Gulf Coast a Category 5, 175–mph monster Wednesday, September 21. Gov. Rick Perry urged residents along the state's entire coast to begin evacuating. Galveston, low-lying parts of Corpus Christi and Houston, and mostly emptied-out New Orleans were under mandatory evacuation orders. Forecasters said Rita could be the most intense hurricane on record ever to hit Texas, and easily one of the most powerful ever to plow into the U.S. mainland. Government officials sent in hundreds of buses to evacuate the poor, moved out hospital and nursing home patients, dispatched truckloads of water, ice and ready-made meals, and put rescue and medical teams on standby. An Army general in Texas was told to be ready to assume control of a military task force in Rita's wake. Houston, home to the highest concentration of Katrina refugees, is 60 miles inland, so a coastal suburban area of 2 million people must evacuate through a metropolitan area of 4 million people. Galveston is protected by a seawall that is only 17 feet tall. The Army Corps of Engineers raced to fortify New Orleans' patched-up levees. The Corps said New Orleans' levees can only handle up to 6 inches of rain and a storm surge of 10 to 12 feet.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/21/AR2005092100243_pf.html

35. *August 31, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–05–813: Immigration Enforcement: Weaknesses Hinder Employment Verification and Worksite Enforcement Efforts (Report).** The opportunity for employment is one of the most important magnets attracting illegal immigrants to the United States. Immigration experts state that strategies to deter illegal immigration require both a reliable employment eligibility verification process and a worksite enforcement capacity to ensure that employers comply with immigration-related employment laws. This report examines (1) the current employment verification (Form I–9) process and challenges, if any, facing verification; and (2) the priorities and resources of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) worksite enforcement program and any challenges in implementing the program. The Government Accountability Office recommends that the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) set a target time frame for completing the department's review of the Form I–9 process and issuing final regulations on the process, assess the feasibility and costs of addressing the Basic Pilot Program's current weaknesses, and establish additional output goals and measures and set a target time frame for developing outcome goals and measures for the worksite enforcement program. In written comments on a draft of this report, DHS agreed with our recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05813high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-813>

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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